

Dear FCC,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the important need for stronger regulations encouraging effective hearing aid compatibility for Digital Wireless Phones.

I have been seriously hearing impaired for nearly 20 years and am totally dependent on effective hearing aid compatibility including powerful volume controls in telephones. Thank you for making that possible for me with your earlier regulations requiring hearing aid compatibility and volume controls for wired phones.

But, now my accessibility to voice communications is seriously threatened, again. The world is rapidly embracing digital wireless telephone technology and many would predict that it will quickly become the dominant means of voice telephone communications technology.

I have tried some digital wireless telephones and find them completely useless because of the loud buzzing sound that they generate in my hearing aid. The buzzing occurs whether the hearing aid is in telecoil mode or not.

I am aware of the expensive (approximately \$100) accommodation that makes it possible for people with telecoil equipped hearing aids to use some digital wireless phones, but I believe a more available and less expensive solution is required. Many people do not have telecoil-equipped hearing aids (and fewer will, if the trend towards tiny canal aids continues), so this accommodation is ineffective for them. Because of its cost, the telecoil-based accommodation seriously limits the selection and drives up the price of telephones for people who, in general, can least afford the extra cost.

Nearly 25 million Americans have a hearing loss, with more and more of them now able to benefit from recent strides in hearing aid technology. It would be a cruel twist of fate, that those finally seeking to accommodate their loss with a hearing aid will find that they can't use them with most digital wireless phones.

Please include digital wireless phones in strong regulations that require hearing aid compatibility including elimination of interference and stronger volume controls.

Thank you, on behalf of Hard of Hearing People, everywhere.

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